

Woodard, Lawana

From: Pearce, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 10:32 AM
To: Woodard, Lawana
Cc: Pearce, Jennifer
Subject: FW: FOIA Request for EIS data & all information to evaluate route alternatives for freight rail service from the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi and ALL EIS data, correspond

FYI...New request

From: Brenda Rody [mailto:blrody@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 3:02 PM
To: Bouma, Stacey <Bouma.Stacey@epa.gov>
Cc: Gross, Louann <Gross.LouAnn@epa.gov>; Pearce, Jennifer <Pearce.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Militscher, Chris <Militscher.Chris@epa.gov>; Plymale, Chris <Plymale.Christopher@epa.gov>; Staples, Bridget <Staples.Bridget@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: FOIA Request for EIS data & all information to evaluate route alternatives for freight rail service from the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi and ALL EIS data, correspond

Thank you.

R,
Brenda Rody
58 Ravenwood Drive
Picayune, Ms 39466

On Mon, Jan 4, 2016 at 11:28 AM, Bouma, Stacey
<Bouma.Stacey@epa.gov> wrote:

Brenda,

I'm forwarding your FOIA request to our Regional Freedom of Information Officer who manages the FOIA process. You can contact the EPA Region 4 FOIA office directly at 404-562-9891.

Stacey Bouma | Chief, Grants and Infrastructure Section | Water Protection Division | US EPA Region 4 | 404.562.9392

From: Brenda Rody [mailto:blrody@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 01, 2016 12:21 PM
To: melissa.hatcher@dot.gov; environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov; frafoia@dot.gov; foia.privacy@stb.dot.gov;

plymale.christopher@epa.gov; Staples, Bridget <Staples.Bridget@epa.gov>; Bouma, Stacey <Bouma.Stacey@epa.gov>
Subject: FOIA Request for EIS data & all information to evaluate route alternatives for freight rail service from the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi and ALL EIS data, corresponde...

This email serves as my FOIA Request for all EIS data, correspondence & etc information regarding to the "evaluation route alternatives for freight rail service from the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi" and ALL EIS data, correspondence, information, etc regarding to the "development of the rail spurs located in Nicholson, Ms & Pearl River County" (see detail information below for the subject study project I am inquiring about; [FR Doc. 2015-13317 Filed 6-1-15; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4910-06-P).

I am very appalled and disappointed with SBT, MDOT, MDEQ, NEPA, ACOE and FRA in how they have intentionally withheld/stonewalled information that was requested several times by Karen Taporco, Kimberly Jacobs, Andrew Whitehurst (GRN), Lewis Negrotto (attorney) and myself during 2012, 2013 and 2014 period and additionally even more disturbing is that NEPA totally ignored the FIOA request. Isn't the NEPA's duty is to respond and investigate the situation to protect citizens?.....

The SBT, MDOT, MDEQ, NEPA, ACOE and FRA was all well aware of subject project that I am inquiring about because an article dated 8/2007 mention there were discussions of the plan study, however it was not implemented until 2012, in which the draft Implementation Plan of the PORT BIENVILLE Rail Feasibility Study was initiated for reviewing process. Then in 9/2013 there was a final version of the PORT BIENVILLE Rail Feasibility Study report document.

Being that said, it's PRETTY obvious that we were intentionally stonewalled by the entities that are supposedly established with tax payers money to protect citizens.....

On 6/2015 the Notice of Inent (NOI) was posted on the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) website in which no citizens are aware to even look for these types of notices on these websites, however those mentioned entities already knew of the impacts that would caused certain residents, YOU have failed to DIRECTLY notify those residents of this Notice of Intent (NOI)! WHY?!?.....

BY THE WAY, the rail spurs development have been started WAY BEFORE your NOI of 6/2015 and were completed early August 2015. So my question is, how can an intense EIS be performed in that very, very short period considering that these rail spurs were developed on top of federal jurisdictional wetlands, these types of EIS usually takes several years especially when they're impacting adjacent residences property of damages and putting their lives in danger???

Please mail my FOIA requested data, documents, etc information regarding the above EIS to my mailing address:

Brenda Rody
58 Ravenwood Drive
Picayune, MS 39466

If additional information is needed from me or should you have questions please contact me at: blrody@yahoo.com

Thank you,
Brenda Rody

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FRA-2009-0031-0151>

This Notice document was issued by the **Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)**

For related information, **Open Docket Folder** ☐

Action

Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Summary

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is issuing this NOI to advise the public that the Mississippi Department of Transportation Port and Harbor Commission intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the impacts of construction and operation of the Port Bienville Railroad Project (Project). The EIS will evaluate route alternatives for the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad in Hancock County, Mississippi to Nicholson in Pearl River County, Mississippi.

Dates

FRA invites the public, governmental agencies, and all other interested parties to comment on the scope of the EIS. All such comments must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice, at the address listed below. Comments may also be provided orally or in writing at the scheduled, scoping meeting dates, times and locations, in addition to information about the EIS for the Port Bienville Railroad Project available online <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0214>.

Addresses

Written comments on the scope of the EIS may be mailed or emailed within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice to Melissa Hatcher, Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Program Delivery, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., MS-20, Washington, DC 20590, or melissa.hatcher@dot.gov.

For Further Information Contact

Melissa Hatcher, Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Program Delivery, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, melissa.hatcher@dot.gov, or Kim Thurman, MDOT, Environmental Division, P.O. Box 1850, Jackson, MS 39201, environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov.

Supplementary Information

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (44 CFR 101, May 26, 1999) (Environmental Procedures). The EIS will also address section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470(f)), section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. 303), E.O. 12898 and U.S. Department of Justice, and other applicable Federal and state laws and regulations. The EIS will:

- Present the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action.
- Identify the reasonable alternatives that satisfy the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action.
- Establish the no-build or no-action alternative to serve as a baseline for comparison.
- Describe the environment likely to be affected by the Proposed Action.
- Describe the potential environmental impacts associated with the reasonable alternatives and propose mitigation measures to reduce impacts.

FRA, in cooperation with MDOT, will prepare an EIS for the Project proposed by MDOT and Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission. The Project will connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad, located at the Port Bienville Industrial Park, Hancock County, with the Norfolk Southern Railroad in the vicinity of Nicholson in Pearl River County, to provide the Port with access to dual Class 1 rail service. The Project is composed of approximately 1.5 miles of new railroad line. Dual Class 1 rail access is proposed to enable Hancock and Pearl River Counties and Stennis Space Center to attract new businesses, require this level of rail services, and encourage job creation and investment opportunities to help this area recover from recent hurricanes that have significantly affected local economies.

The Project's new corridor may involve alteration and fill of "Waters of the United States," as that term is used in the Clean Water Act. Therefore, the EIS process will involve the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is expected to serve as a cooperating agency. The Project will also pass through the acoustical (noise) buffer zone of NASA's Stennis Space Center.

Project Background

In 2008, the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission received a \$2.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration to improve the railway at the Port Bienville Industrial Park. In 2013, a Feasibility Report was completed to determine the feasibility of constructing and operating a new rail line to connect the Port Bienville Short Line Railroad with the Norfolk Southern mainline in Nichols. The study identified reasonable alternative corridors; identification of the economic benefits and opportunities associated with the Project; and the recommended actions for the Project. Given the business case for dual Class I rail services, the demands of the existing and emerging business clusters in Hancock County, the future benefits to Stennis Space Center, the existing industrial land inventory, and the workforce and transportation assets supporting this new rail line was determined feasible.

The Project would provide existing businesses access to dual Class I rail service, improving transit time and reliability, and enabling Hancock County and the Stennis Space Center to attract new industries to the region. By improving the efficiency of goods movement in the area, the Project will also improve regional air quality and reduce truck traffic on area roads and highways.

Scoping and Public Involvement

In accordance with NEPA, the FRA and MDOT invite comments and suggestions regarding the scope of the EIS from all interested parties. As comments are addressed, all reasonable alternatives are considered, and any significant issues are identified. In particular, FRA is interested in identifying areas of concern where there might be a potential for significant impacts. Public agencies with jurisdiction are requested to advise FRA and MDOT of their policies and environmental review requirements of each agency, and the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to their responsibilities in connection with the Project. Federal agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to potential impacts are requested to act as a Cooperating Agency in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.16.

In coordination with FRA, MDOT will lead the outreach activities beginning with scoping meetings (dates to be determined). Public input will be provided through public meetings, access to a Web site, and outreach will continue throughout the EIS process. Opportunities for public participation will be provided through mailings, notices, advertisements, press releases, and a FRA-hosted EIS Web page, accessible at <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0214>. Public meetings will be held after the Draft EIS is released and made available for public and agency review. Public notice will be given for the time and place of the meetings. Comments or questions concerning the Proposed Action and the scope of the EIS are invited from all interested parties and should be directed to the address provided above.

Authority

42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 26, 2015.

Corey W. Hill,

Director, Office of Program Delivery.

[FR Doc. 2015-13317 Filed 6-1-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P